

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) A reservation server comprising:

a retaining section for retaining store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a reservation situation-information of said reservation-needed service;

an alternative event information outputting section for outputting first alternative event information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service;

a receiving section for receiving a-desired service or desired event information which a user desires, and is transmitted from a user terminal through the communication network;

a reservation managing section for selectively reading out said store/facility information retained in said retaining section and said first alternative event information outputted from said alternative event information outputting section on the basis of said desired service or desired event received in said receiving section; and

a transmitting section for transmitting, through the communication network to said user terminal, at least one of said store/facility information and said first alternative event information read out in said reservation managing section,

wherein said reservation managing section, when receiving a reservation from the user terminal, updates the store information retained in said retaining section, thereby completing the reservation , and

wherein said transmitting section, when the reservation is completed by said reservation managing section, transmits, to the user terminal, second alternative event information, which is different from the reservation-needed service and the first alternative event information and is practicable for a user of the user terminal.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 1, further comprising a waiting time calculating section for calculating, as a waiting time, a difference between a start

time, included in said alternative event information selected by said reservation managing section, or a reservation-needed service start time, included in said store/facility information selected by said reservation managing section, and the present time, and for outputting the calculated waiting time.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 1, further comprising an end time calculating section for calculating, as an end time, the sum of a performance time to be taken for said event, included in said alternative event information selected by said reservation managing section, or a performance time to be taken for said reservation-needed service, included in said store/facility information selected by said reservation managing section, and the present time, and for outputting the calculated end time.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 1, further comprising an other reservation situation-information notifying section for outputting, to said transmitting section, a situation-information on a reservation-needed event requiring reservation, among said alternative event information outputted from said alternative event information outputting section.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) A reservation server according to claim 7, wherein said other reservation situation-information notifying section is made to output practicable information of said alternative event information as performing-practicable event information to said transmitting section.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 9, wherein said other reservation situation-information notifying section is made to output said performing-practicable event information on the basis of a user traveling time, a user's waiting time at an

other store and an event performance time in said other store.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 9 comprising:
a retaining section for retaining store information including a reservation-needed service
requiring reservation and reservation information of said reservation-needed service;
an alternative event information outputting section for outputting alternative event
information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service;
a receiving section for receiving desired service or desired event information which a
user desires, and which is transmitted from a user terminal through the communication network;
a reservation managing section for selectively reading out said store information retained
in said retaining section and said alternative event information outputted from said alternative
event information outputting section on the basis of said desired service or desired event
received by said receiving section;
a transmitting section for transmitting, through the communication network to said user
terminal, at least either one of said store information and alternative event information read out
in said reservation managing section; and
an other reservation information notifying section which outputs, to said transmitting
section, reservation information of a reservation-needed event which needs reservation, out of
the alternative event information output from said alternative event information outputting
section,
wherein said other reservation information notifying section outputs, to said transmitting
section, practicable alternative event information, out of the alternative event information, as
practicable event information, and
wherein said other reservation situation-information notifying section is made to extract a longest event taking a maximum performance time among events, included in said alternative event information, on the basis of an event end time obtained by adding said waiting time to a performance time to be taken for each of said events, for including the extracted longest event in said performing-practicable event information and outputting the longest event included performing in said practicable event information.

14. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 10 comprising:
a retaining section for retaining store information including a reservation-needed service

requiring reservation and reservation information of said reservation-needed service;

an alternative event information outputting section for outputting alternative event information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service;

a receiving section for receiving desired service or desired event information which a user desires, and which is transmitted from a user terminal through the communication network;

a reservation managing section for selectively reading out said store information retained in said retaining section and said alternative event information outputted from said alternative event information outputting section on the basis of said desired service or desired event received by said receiving section;

a transmitting section for transmitting, through the communication network to said user terminal, at least either one of said store information and alternative event information read out in said reservation managing section; and

an other reservation information notifying section which outputs, to said transmitting section, reservation information of a reservation-needed event which needs reservation, out of the alternative event information output from said alternative event information outputting section,

wherein said other reservation information notifying section outputs, to said transmitting section, practicable alternative event information, out of the alternative event information, as practicable event information, and

wherein said other reservation situation-information notifying section is made to extract a longest event taking a maximum performance time among events, included in said alternative event information, on the basis of an event end time obtained by adding said waiting time to a performance time to be taken for each of said events, for including the extracted longest event in said performing-practicable event information and outputting the longest event included performing in said practicable event information.

15. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 9, wherein said alternative event information outputting section is constructed as an event information retaining section to retain and output said alternative event information according to time zone, and said other reservation situation-information notifying section is constructed as an event notifying section to extract said performing-practicable event information from said alternative event information outputted from said event information retaining section on the basis of the present time, and for outputting the extracted performing-practicable event information to said transmitting section.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 7,
wherein said retaining section is connected, through a server network, to another
reservation server which retains store information that is different from the store information
retained in said retaining section, and

wherein said alternative event information outputting section is constructed as an other reservation server interface section to output, as said alternative event information, other reservation server alternative event information retained in an other said another reservation server connected through a the server network, and said other reservation situation information notifying section is made to extract practicable other reservation server alternative event information, said other reservation server alternative event information satisfying a predetermined condition from said other reservation server alternative event information outputted from said other reservation server interface section, and to output the extracted practicable other reservation server alternative event information to said transmitting section.

18. (original) A reservation server according to claim 17, further comprising a reservation mediating section for transmitting a reservation request from a user, received in said receiving section to said other reservation server through said other reservation server interface section.

19. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 18, further comprising a utilization situation information retaining section for retaining an access log between said reservation server and said other reservation server, with said utilization situation information retaining section being made to calculate an introduction charge on information provided by said other reservation server to said reservation server and an introduction charge on information provided from said reservation server to said other reservation server on the basis of said access log, and to retain both the calculated introduction charges.

20. (currently amended) A reservation server according to claim 1, further comprising a discount/value-added information generating section for generating discount information or value-added information on said alternative event information outputted from said alternative event information outputting section and for outputting said discount information or said value-

added information to said transmitting section.

21. (withdrawn) A reservation server comprising:

a retaining section for retaining store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a reservation situation of said reservation-needed service;

a handling table for retaining handling scheme data on handling by a store or facility according to said reservation situation of said store/facility information; and

a store handling selecting section for selecting desired handling scheme data among said handling scheme data retained in said handling table on the basis of said reservation situation retained in said retaining section to notify an other store or facility of the selected handling scheme data.

22. (withdrawn) A reservation server according to claim 21, wherein said store handling selecting section is made to read out and output said handling scheme data from said handling table on the basis of, of said reservation situation, a rate of change representative of variation in the number of reservations for a predetermined period of time.

23. (currently amended) A user terminal comprising:

a receiving section for receiving, through the communication network, at least either one of store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a reservation situation-information of said reservation-needed service and (ii) first alternative event information about an event substituting for said reservation-needed service, retained in a reservation server;

a displaying section for displaying said store/facility information or alternative event information received in said receiving section;

a selecting section for selecting a desired service or desired event which a user desires, among said store/facility information or alternative event information displayed on said displaying section; and

a transmitting section for transmitting, through the communication network, the desired service or desired event selected in said selecting section to said reservation server, wherein said receiving section, after completion of reservation based on the desired service or the desired event transmitted by said transmitting section, receives second alternative event information, which is different from the reservation-needed service and the first alternative event information and is practicable for a user of the user terminal.

24. (currently amended) A user terminal according to claim 23, further comprising a ~~discount/value-added~~ information retaining section for retaining discount information or value-added information transmitted from said reservation server and received in said receiving section.

25. (currently amended) A reservation system comprising:

a user terminal for transmitting and receiving data; and

a reservation server, connected through a radio network to said user terminal, for outputting at least either one of (i) store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a reservation situation-information of said reservation-needed service and (ii) first alternative event information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service to said user terminal,

said reservation server including:

a retaining section for retaining said store/facility information;

an alternative event information outputting section for outputting said alternative event information;

a first receiving section for receiving, through the radio network, a desired service or desired event which a user desires, and is transmitted from said user terminal;

a reservation managing section for selectively reading out said store/facility information, retained in said retaining section, and said first alternative event information, outputted from said alternative event information outputting section, on the basis of the desired service or desired event received in said first receiving section; and

a first transmitting section for transmitting, through the radio network to said user terminal, at least either one of said store/facility information and alternative event information read out by said reservation managing section,

wherein said reservation managing section updates the store information retained in said retaining section, thereby accepting a reservation request from a user of the user terminal, and

wherein said first transmitting section, when the reservation is accepted by said reservation managing section, transmits, through the radio network to the user terminal, second alternative event information, which is different from the reservation-needed service and the first alternative event information and is practicable for a user of the user terminal,

said user terminal including:

a second receiving section for receiving at least either one of said store/facility

information and alternative event information transmitted from said first transmitting section of said reservation server through the radio network;

a displaying section for displaying said store/facility information or alternative event information received in said second receiving section;

a selecting section for selecting the desired service or desired event which the user desires, among said store/facility information or alternative event information displayed on said displaying section; and

a second transmitting section for transmitting, through the radio network to said reservation server, the desired service or desired event selected by said selecting section.

26. (currently amended) A reservation method comprising:

a first transmitting step in which a reservation server transmits, to a user terminal connected through a radio network to said reservation server, at least one of store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a-reservation situation-information of said reservation-needed service and first alternative event information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service;

a reserving step in which said user terminal transmits, to said reservation server, a desired service or desired event which a user desires, among said store/facility information or alternative event information transmitted in said first transmitting step;

a selecting step in which said reservation server selects at least one of said store/facility information and said first alternative event information on said event substituting for said reservation-needed service, on the basis of the desired service or desired event transmitted in said reserving step; and

a second transmitting step in which said reservation server transmits, to said user terminal, said store/facility information or first alternative event information selected by said selecting step;

a reservation accepting step in which the reservation server accepts a reservation from a user of the user terminal, when the user makes a reservation based on the store information and the first alternative event information transmitted in said second transmitting step; and

a third transmitting step for transmitting, to the user terminal, second alternative event information, which is different from the reservation-needed service and the first alternative event information and is practicable for the user.

27. (currently amended) A reservation method according to claim 26, wherein said

first transmitting step includes:

an other reservation server access step in which said reservation server has access to other reservation server alternative event information retained in at least an other reservation server which is connected through a server network to said reservation server;

a performing-practicable event information extracting step in which said reservation server extracts, from said other reservation server alternative event information accessed in the other reservation server access step, performing-practicable event information practicable within a user's waiting time to be taken until a desired service starts; and

a performing-practicable event information transmitting step in which said reservation server transmits, to said user terminal, said performing-practicable event information extracted in said performing-practicable event information extracting step.

28. (currently amended) A reservation method according to claim 26, wherein said selecting step includes:

an other reservation server access step in which said reservation server gains access to other reservation server store/facility information or other reservation server alternative event information retained in an other reservation server connected through a server network to said reservation server;

a waiting time calculating step in which said reservation server calculates a user's waiting time, to be taken until a desired service or a desired event starts, on the basis of said other reservation server store/facility information or other reservation server alternative event information accessed in said other reservation server access step; and

an extracting step in which said reservation server extracts, from the desired service or the desired event, a service or event practicable within the waiting time calculated in said waiting time calculating step.

29. (withdrawn) A reservation method comprising:

a reserving step in which a user terminal makes reservation for a reservation-needed service requiring reservation to a reservation server connected through a radio network to said user terminal;

a threshold detecting step in which said reservation server detects that a rate of change of the number of reservations for said reservation-needed service reserved in said reserving step is equal to or more than a first threshold value, or equal to or less than a second threshold value;

a supernumerary dispatch staff retrieving step in which said reservation server has access to at least an other reservation server which is connected through a server network to make retrieval on supernumerary store/facility having supernumerary when said threshold detecting step detects that the rate of change thereof is equal to or more than said first threshold value, and said reservation server has access to said other reservation server to make retrieval on a dispatch requiring store/facility requiring dispatched staff when said threshold detecting step detects that the rate of change thereof is equal to or less than said second threshold value; and

a requesting/supporting step in which said reservation server issues a request for dispatch to said supernumerary store/facility retrieved in said supernumerary dispatch staff retrieving step or offers support to said dispatch requiring store/facility retrieved in said supernumerary dispatch staff retrieving step.

30. (withdrawn) A reservation method comprising:

a communication-feasible user terminal retrieving step in which a reservation server retrieves a communication-feasible user terminal from user terminals connected to a server network to said reservation server;

a third transmitting step in which said reservation server transmits store/facility information including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation and a reservation situation of said reservation-needed service to said communication-feasible user terminal retrieved in said communication-feasible user terminal retrieving step; and

a fourth transmitting step in which said communication-feasible user terminal transmits a desired service which a user desires, among said reservation-needed service included in said store/facility information transmitted in said third transmitting step, to said reservation server.

31. (withdrawn) A reservation method comprising:

an inquiring step in which a user terminal inquires of a reservation server connected through a server network to said user terminal whether or not it is possible for a user to receive a desired service which said user desires;

a reference step in which said reservation server refers to at least one of store/facility information, including a reservation-needed service requiring reservation, and a reservation situation of said reservation-needed service and alternative event information on an event substituting for said reservation-needed service, with respect to the desired service on the inquiry in said inquiring step; and

a store/facility information transmitting step in which said reservation server transmits details of the desired service to said user terminal when it is possible for said user to receive the desired service as a result of the reference in said reference step, and transmits alternative store/facility information or alternative event information to said user terminal when it is impossible for said user to receive the desired service.

32. (new) A reservation server, comprising:

a retaining section for retaining store information which includes the contents of services provided by a store and reservation information of the services; and

a transmitting section for transmitting, through a radio network, the store information retained in said retaining section to a user terminal which is present in a specified area (hereinafter will be called the first specified area) whose base point is the reservation server,

said transmitting section unilaterally transmitting the store information as one-way information to the user terminal, irrespective of the presence or absence of access from the user terminal.

33. (new) A reservation server as set forth in claim 33, comprising:

a receiving section for receiving, from said user terminal through the radio network, user-desiring service which is desired by a user of the user terminal; and

a reservation managing section which updates the store information retained in said retaining section based on the user-desiring service received by said receiving section, thereby accepting a reservation from the user.

34. (new) A reservation server as set forth in claim 33, wherein said transmitting section transmits the store information to the user terminal within the first specified area and a user terminal which is present within a second specified area whose base point is the user terminal present within the first specified area.

35. (new) A reservation system, comprising:

a user terminal which transceives data; and

a reservation server which is connected to the user terminal through a radio network, said reservation server including:

a retaining section for retaining store information including the contents of services provided by a store for which said reservation server is provided;

a transmitting section for transmitting, through a radio network, the store information retained in said retaining section to a user terminal which is present in a specified area whose base point is the reservation server,

wherein said transmitting section unilaterally transmits the store information as one-way information to the user terminal, irrespective of the presence or absence of accessing from the user terminal,

said user terminal including:

a receiving section for receiving the store information transmitted from said transmitting section of said reservation server; and

a displaying section for showing the store information received by said receiving section.

36. (new) A method of making a reservation, comprising:
receiving a reservation-needed request for a desired event; and;
outputting alternative event information for an event substituting for said desired event.